

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## ABOUT THE BOOK

## READING GROUP GUIDE

The moon is missing from the remote Village of Clear Sky, but only a young boy named Rendi seems to notice! Rendi has run away from home and is now working as a chore boy at the village inn. He can't help but notice the village's peculiar inhabitants and their problems—where has the innkeeper's son gone? Why are Master Chao and Widow Yan always arguing? What is the crying sound Rendi keeps hearing? And how can crazy, old Mr. Shan not know if his pet is a toad or a rabbit?

But one day, a mysterious lady arrives at the inn with the gift of storytelling, and slowly transforms the villagers and Rendi himself. As she tells more and more stories and the days pass in the Village of Clear Sky, Rendi begins to realize that perhaps it is his own story that holds the answers to all those questions.

# STARRY RIVER OF THE SKY



Newbery Honor author

## Grace Lin

brings readers another enthralling fantasy featuring her marvelous full-color illustrations, Chinese folklore, exciting characters, and new adventures with this companion book to

*Where the Mountain*

*Meets the Moon.*



**STARRY RIVER OF THE SKY**

By Grace Lin

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Reading Group Guide prepared by Jennifer McMahon.  
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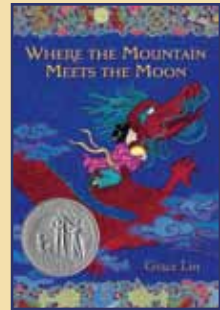
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**GRACE LIN** is the award-winning author and illustrator of *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, *The Year of the Dog*, *The Year of the Rat*, *Dumpling Days*, and *Ling & Ting*, as well as picture books such as *The Ugly Vegetables* and *Dim Sum for Everyone!*. Grace is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and lives in Massachusetts. Her website is [www.gracelin.com](http://www.gracelin.com).



1. What does the stowaway, Rendi, realize is missing? What specific details help him draw this conclusion?
2. How did MeiLan and Jiming become friends? Why is the jade bracelet so special to her? What does MeiLan say will not happen without her bracelet?
3. How does Rendi feel about the toad at first? How do his feelings change? What evidence from the story supports your answer?
4. In “The Story of the Old Sage,” Tiwu is taught a valuable lesson. What lesson does he learn? Why does Madame Chang tell this story?
5. In “The Story of WangYi’s Wife,” what happened to WangYi as the years passed? Why do you think this happened to him? What happened to WangYi’s wife? How did swallowing the pill change her? In what ways did she remain the same?
6. The final riddle in “The Story of the Three Questions” is unsolved. How does Mr. Shan help solve this riddle? In what ways could the answer to this riddle change the lives of Master Chao and Widow Yan? How might it change Peiyi’s life?
7. When Rendi hears he is serving the Duke of Zhe, he is horrified. Why do you think he has this reaction? What could this mean?
8. How did Peiyi, Mr. Shan, Madame Chang, MeiLan, Widow Yan, and Mr. Chao work together to save Rendi? What did each person contribute, risk, or sacrifice to help Rendi?
9. Madame Chang says, “Sometimes the best decision is a painful one, but it is never one made out of anger.” What does she mean by this? Do you think Madame Chang is right? Explain your answer.
10. When Rendi first told Madame Chang that he could hear the crying of the sky, she referred to his story about the jumping fish. She said, “You must understand in a way none of us do.” What does the toad want? Why does Rendi understand?
11. How does Rendi help the toad? What was making the toad so uncomfortable?
12. How does “The True Story of the Mountain That Moved” differ from Peiyi’s first version of the story?
13. Rendi asked Madame Chang why she wanted him to tell stories. She explains that people share things about themselves when they tell stories. Looking back at the stories Rendi told, what do they tell you about him? How did storytelling help Rendi learn about himself?
14. What does Rendi give Peiyi when he comes to say goodbye? What does he suggest she do with the gift?

## Don’t Miss the 2010 Newbery Honor-Winning Companion to *Starry River of the Sky*



**WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON**  
By Grace Lin

ISBN: 978-0-316-03863-8

★ “Children will embrace this accessible, timeless story about the evil of greed and the joy of gratitude.”

—*BOOKLIST* (starred review)

★ “The author’s writing is elegant, and her full-color illustrations are stunning... compelling and thoroughly human.”

—*SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL*  
(starred review)